

Millom Urban District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

*Summary of action taken during the Year ending
Dec. 31st, 1903, to prevent the spread
of disease.*

Small-pox.—One case. Within three hours of the notification of this case, it was removed to our Small pox Hospital, while the Hut containing 12 men working amongst 800 others, and three children going to school, was isolated by placing a fence round it, their food being sent in to them by the Council, and all the inmates who had not had Small-pox were re-vaccinated on the following day. This action was most successful as there was no other case. A special report was made to the Council at the time.

Scarlet-Fever.—422 cases. Nine deaths. The first case reported was on Jan. 15th, in Duddon-street, the next on the 28th, in Egremont Street, quite the other end of the town. I could not trace any connection between these cases. The next reported case was at Haverigg, nearly two miles away. I could not trace these cases to any source of infection, the last case reported in Duddon Street being on October 9th, 1902, and the last case in Millom on November 15th. Each month showed a steady increase, so much so, that in July it was decided to close the schools, but this did not diminish the numbers in the least, and then handbills were sent to every

house, and the parents warned against allowing their children to go out in the streets in a state of infection, but in small cottage houses such as we have in Millom, isolation is almost impossible, and this shows the great need for an Isolation Hospital. There is no doubt that some of the cases reported did not have Scarlet Fever, and some have been reported twice either this year or last.

Diphtheria.—Three cases. One death.

Membranous Croup.—One case.

Erysipelas.—Five cases.

Enteric Fever.—Five cases. One death.

Enteritis.—Three deaths.

Influenza.—Two deaths.

Phthisis.—Fifteen deaths.

Other Tubercular Diseases.—Three deaths.

Cancer.—Ten deaths.


Measles.—A great number of cases. Nine deaths.

Whooping Cough.—A number of cases. Four deaths.

Water.—As in former years, has been ample for all requirements, and coming off the hills it is free from all risk of pollution ; the only possible source being under the control and supervision of the Council's Officers.

House Accommodation.—Has been ample, 26 new ones being built during the year. All the houses in the District have large back yards and wide front streets, and are specially suited to the working classes. Strict supervision is maintained over the erection of new houses, their drainage, &c., no building being allowed till the plans have been passed by the Council.

Sewerage and Drainage.—Is now complete in all parts of the District, and is under constant supervision ; all defects are at once attended to.



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Excrement. —Water carried all over the District. No defects.

Removal and Disposal of House Refuse.—This is done by the Council's own carts and workmen, and is more or less continuous, 3,139 carts being removed during the year, an increase of 239 on last year.

Common Lodging Houses, Slaughter Houses, Dairies, Cowsheds, Bakehouses, Factory and Workshops have been inspected during the year, and any nuisance found reported to the owner or occupier, and at once made good.

Offensive Trades.—Not any.

Nuisances.—Notices are at once served, and in almost every case are immediately attended to. Four yard drains were cleaned or repaired, 15 yards paved or re-laid, 20 W.C.'s cleared or repaired, 21 slopstones pipes lengthened or repaired, 2 bakehouses limewashed.

Notification of Disease.—Scarlet Fever, 422 ; Enteric, 5 ; Erysipelas, 5 ; Diphtheria, 3 ; Croup, 1 ; Small-pox, 1 ; Total, 437.

Disinfectants were supplied gratuitously in every case. House, clothing, &c., fumigated or sent through the steam disinfecter, and the School Attendance Officer and Librarian have been notified in every case.

Isolation Hospital.—Is a wood building, used for Small-pox only, and has no doubt prevented a very considerable outbreak of this disease this year.

If we had a Hospital for Fever cases as well, I have little doubt that Scarlet Fever would not have spread as it did, for we could have stamped it out by removing the first or second case at once, and isolated and disinfected the house. I would urge the Council to push on with the proposed Hospital.

Factory and Workshops Act.—There is practically nothing of the kind in this District, but workrooms which come



under the Act have been visited, and any sanitary arrangements required have been carried out.

Reports have been made to the Council from time to time during the year, shewing the systematic inspections made with the Inspector of Nuisances, each house being visited at least once in the year. The number of houses are now 1,953, an increase of 26 on last year. A special visit was made where any nuisance or infectious case was reported. Twelve Slaughter Houses and three Common Lodging Houses were also inspected.

Zymotic Disease.—Caused 31 deaths, an increase of 24 on last year.

Deaths.—164, or 15.13 per 1,000. Fifty-six under one year, an increase of 17 on last year, or 5.16 per 1,000, and 19 over 65 years.

Births.—337, or 31.10 per 1,000; a decrease of 43 on last year.

Statistical Tables as required by the Local Government Board are enclosed,

(Signed)

PERCY B. STONEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

